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CANNOCK
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL
REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the
Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR
1958

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ANNUAL REPORT

Public Health Department,
Cannock Rural District Council,
Penkridge,
Staffs.

Telephone: Penkridge 301/2

June 1959

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE CANNOCK
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting to you the Annual Report for the Year 1958. The report has been compiled on the general lines indicated by the Ministry of Health.

In the Cannock Rural District in 1958 the Live Birth Rate was 20.3 per 1,000 population and the Death Rate 9.0 compared with respective figures of 20.3 and 11.7 for England and Wales. There were 538 live births in the rural district in 1958 (271 male, 267 female) and the total number of deaths was 237, live births thus exceeding total deaths by 301. Deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 11 (5 male, 6 female), giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 20.4 per 1,000 live births, compared with a figure of 22.5 for England and Wales. The latter rate was the lowest annual rate ever recorded for England and Wales. Seven of the eleven infants who died in the rural district were under four weeks of age.

Five cases of Scarlet Fever, 6 cases of Whooping Cough and 98 cases of Measles were notified in 1958, compared with respective figures of 14, 44 and 394 in 1957. No cases of Diphtheria or Poliomyelitis were notified.

Malignant diseases caused the deaths of 27 persons (11 male, 16 female) in 1958, 5 (3 male, 2 female) being due to Carcinoma of the Lung or Bronchus. In England and Wales a further rise occurred in 1958 in the mortality from this latter disease, from 759 to 783 per million in men and from 116 to 119 in women. One death from Tuberculosis was recorded in 1958.

The mid-1958 population of the Cannock Rural District was estimated by the Registrar-General as 26,470, compared with 25,920 at mid-1957 and 24,166 at the 1951 census.

69 new dwellings were built by the Council in 1958 and 248 by private enterprise. 1,481 dwellings were in the care of the Housing Manager at the end of 1958, and 1,187 applicants were on the Housing Waiting List.

In the body of the report the Chief Public Health Inspector reports on the work of the Public Health Inspectorate during 1958.

In conclusion, the Public Health Department wishes to thank the Public Health Committee and Council for their interest and help in the work of the Department. Thanks are also expressed to the officers of the other Departments of the Council for their co-operation.

A. THOMSON,

Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1958

Chairman :

Councillor W. J. GARRATT

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor F. TILL

Members :

Mr. H. Adams, Mr. G. T. Allen, Rev. A. N. Barsley, Mr. G. H. Bartlett, Mr. H. T. Bill, Mrs. D. E. Bowen, Mr. J. Greenaway, Miss C. M. Horton, Mr. G. F. Palmer, Mr. A. Parkes, Mrs. L. J. Perks, Mrs. W. Taylor, Miss M. J. Walker, Mr. H. Evans, Mr. F. E. Mottram, Mr. R. J. Westwood and Mr. J. Wright.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health :

A. THOMSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Edin.)

Chief Public Health Inspector :

G. RICHARDSON, Certificate S.I.E.J.B., M.A.P.H.I.
(Cert. Food Inspector)

Additional Public Health Inspector :

O. W. PARNALL, Certificate S.I.E.J.B.

Clerks :

Mrs. J. GOLDSTRAW

Mrs. J. LESTER

GENERAL STATISTICS, SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	56,608
Number of inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	7,674
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£230,483
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£950
Yearly Rate levied in 1958/59	...	...	...	...	...	16/4d.
Mid-1958 Population (as estimated by the Registrar-General)	...	...	...	...	...	26,470

There were no alterations in the boundaries of the Cannock Rural District in 1958.

INDUSTRIES

The working population of the district is engaged in Coal-mining, Agriculture, Brick and Tile Making, and Engineering.

LABORATORY FACILITIES, AMBULANCE FACILITIES, NURSING IN THE HOME, TREATMENT CENTRES AND HOSPITALS

Facilities for bacteriological examinations are made available to Medical Practitioners in the area by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Stafford. This service is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health. Facilities include examination of throat swabs, sputum tests, blood tests, etc. The results of all examinations relevant to Public Health are made available to the appropriate Medical Officer of Health. The Director of the Stafford Laboratory is Dr. Mackay Scollay, whose expert advice is readily available to the Medical Officer of Health when occasion demands.

Bacteriological examinations of samples of water are undertaken by the Laboratory Service.

Chemical examinations of samples of water, sewage effluents, etc., are carried out at the County Chemical Laboratory, Stafford, which is directed by Mr. Houlbrooke, the County Analyst.

The duty of providing Ambulance Services is placed upon the County Council as Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act, 1946. The responsibility for Isolation Hospitals for Infectious Diseases lies with the Regional Hospital Board. School Clinics, Infant-Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Clinics are made available by the Staffordshire County Council in different parts of the district.

The district is well served by General Hospitals (Wolverhampton, Stafford), and by the General Medical Practitioners practising in the Area. District Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors do much good work in promoting the health and welfare of the inhabitants.

During the year, the Council subscribed to the Central Council for Health Education, which represented the Ministry of Health in Health Education matters. Use was made of Health Education leaflets, etc., relating to Infectious Diseases, Food Hygiene, and so on.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1958

In the Cannock Rural District in 1958 the Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population was 20.3, compared with a rate of 16.4 for England and Wales (comparability factor 0.96).

The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population was 0.38, the figure for England and Wales being 0.37. 6.3 per cent of the live births were illegitimate (1 to 15). There were 538 live births in 1958 (34 of those being illegitimate); 271 were male children and 267 female. Still births totalled 10 (5 male, 5 female), one being illegitimate.

In the following table, comparative figures of Live and Still Births are shown for England and Wales:

YEAR	LIVE BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION		STILL BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION	
	Cannock Rural District	England and Wales	Cannock Rural District	England and Wales
1958	20.3	16.4	0.38	0.37
1957	18.7	16.1	0.46	0.37
1956	19.6	15.7	0.55	0.35
1955	16.7	15.0	0.40	0.35
1954	17.8	15.2	0.75	0.36
1953	19.3	15.5	0.73	0.35
1952	18.6	15.3	0.53	0.35
1951	17.4	15.5	0.50	0.36
1950	17.4	15.8	0.37	0.37
1949	18.3	16.7	0.37	0.39
1948	18.8	17.9	0.68	0.42
1947	20.2	20.5	0.25	0.50

Illegitimacy Rate per 1,000 Live Births, 1958 Cannock Rural District, 63.

DEATHS

In 1958 the Death Rate per 1,000 of the population (comparability factor 1.21) was 9.0 compared with a rate of 11.7 for England and Wales. In the Cannock Rural District in 1958, total deaths numbered 237 (134 males and 103 females). The excess of live births over total deaths was 301. The Natural Increase for 1958 in England and Wales was 211,521.

DEATHS—CAUSES, 1958

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Totals
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..	1	—	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic conditions	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasms: Stomach ..	2	3	5
Malignant Neoplasms: Lung Bronchus	3	2	5
Malignant Neoplasms: Uterus ..	—	1	1
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	6	10	16
Diabetes	—	1	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System..	13	18	31
Coronary Disease, Angina	15	16	31
Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	—	3	3
Other Heart Disease	26	19	45
Other Circulatory Disease	5	6	11
Pneumonia	14	—	8
Bronchitis	8	6	20
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ..	1	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	—	4
Congenital Malformations	1	1	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	—	3
All other Accidents	8	4	12
Suicide	1	—	1
Homicide	—	1	1
All other Diseases	22	11	33
Influenza	1	—	1
TOTALS ..	134	103	237

AGES AT DEATH AND PERCENTAGES OF TOTAL, 1958 TOTAL DEATHS. 237.

Age Group	under 1	1-	5-	10-	15-	20-	30-	40-	50-	60-	70-	80-	90 and over	Totals
Males ..	5	—	1	1	1	5	3	4	16	24	48	23	3	134
% Total	2.1	—	0.4	0.4	0.4	2.1	1.8	1.6	6.8	10.1	20.3	9.7	1.3	56.5
Females	6	2	—	—	—	1	1	3	10	24	30	21	5	103
% Total	2.5	0.9	—	—	—	0.4	0.4	1.3	4.2	10.1	12.9	8.9	2.1	43.5
Total ..	11	2	1	1	1	6	4	7	26	48	78	44	8	239
% ..	4.6	0.9	0.4	0.4	0.4	2.5	1.7	2.9	11.0	20.2	33.0	18.6	3.4	100.0

Twenty-six (10.9%) of the total deaths occurred under 40 years of age. This included 11 deaths (46% of total) under one year. 178 (75.2%) of the total deaths were at ages 60 years and over.

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION

YEAR	DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION	
	Cannock Rural District	England and Wales
1958	9.0	11.7
1957	8.6	11.5
1956	8.9	11.7
1955	11.9	11.7
1954	10.1	11.3
1953	9.1	11.4
1952	9.3	11.3
1951	13.4	12.5
1950	10.1	11.6
1949	10.3	11.7
1948	10.7	10.8
1947	8.7	12.0

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

Deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 11 (5 male, 6 female), none illegitimate. Of these 11 children, 7 were under the age of four weeks. The Infant Mortality Rate in the Cannock Rural District was 20.4 per 1,000 live births, compared with 22.5 for England and Wales. The figure for England and Wales was the lowest annual rate ever recorded. At the turn of the century in England and Wales the Infant Mortality Rate was about 150 per 1,000 live births.

YEAR	DEATH RATE OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS	
	Cannock Rural District	England and Wales
1958	20.4	22.5
1957	33.0	23.0
1956	18.1	23.8
1955	31.0	24.9
1954	26.6	25.4
1953	52.3	26.8
1952	28.6	27.6
1951	35.6	29.6
1950	54.4	29.8
1949	29.2	32.0
1948	36.2	34.0
1947	37.4	41.0

In the following list are given the details of the eleven deaths under one year of age in the rural district:

DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR, 1958

Sex	Age	Cause of Death
Female	2 Hours	Sub-Dural Haemorrhage
Female	2 Hours	General Haemorrhage, Precipitate Labour
Female	9 Hours	Pulmonary Atelectasis
Male	12 Hours	Cerebral Haemorrhage, Pulmonary Atelectasis
Male	1 Day	Congenital Heart Disease
Male	3 Days	Cerebral Haemorrhage, Birth Injury
Male	3 Days	Haemorrhagic Disease
Female	1 Month	Congenital Heart Disease
Female	1 Month	Suppurative Meningitis
Female	5 Months	Asphyxia due Inhalation Regurgitated Stomach Contents
Male	8 Months	Asphyxia due Inhalation Regurgitated Stomach Contents

There were 10 Still Births in the Cannock Rural District in 1958 (5 male, 5 female). This represents a Still Birth Rate of 18.2 per 1,000 live and still births compared with a figure of 21.6 for England and Wales.

Of the eleven children who died at under one year of age, 7 were under four weeks, representing a Neonatal Mortality Rate of 13.0 per 1,000 live births. In England and Wales, deaths of infants under four weeks numbered 11,969 giving a Neonatal Mortality Rate of 16.2.

In England and Wales in 1958 live births registered during the year numbered 738,323, which was 15,049 more than in 1957. There were 16,620 deaths of children under one year of age in 1958, giving a rate of 22.5 per 1,000 live births, the lowest Annual Infant Mortality Rate ever recorded in England and Wales. In 1938 the rate was 52.8.

Total deaths in England and Wales in 1958 numbered 526,792 representing a rate of 11.7 per 1,000 population, compared with death rates of 11.5 in 1957 and 11.7 in 1956. There were 16,274 Still Births in 1958 in England and Wales. In the five years 1889-1893 in England and Wales the Live Birth Rate was 30.8 per 1,000 population and the Death Rate was 19.7.

DEATHS—ENGLAND AND WALES

DISEASES	1950	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1958
Respiratory Tuberculosis	14,079	9,335	7,913	7,069	5,837	4,853	4,000
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis ..	1,890	1,250	989	828	655	522	488
Diphtheria ...	49	32	23	9	13	8	8
Whooping Cough ..	394	184	243	139	88	95	27
Measles ..	221	141	245	50	176	30	49
Malignant Disease of Lung and Bronchus	12,241	14,218	15,132	16,231	17,272	18,186	19,809
Motor Vehicle Accidents	4,230	4,117	4,375	4,589	4,923	5,036	5,438

CANCER OF THE LUNG AND BRONCHUS

The increase in the incidence of Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus continues to cause anxiety. Two conditions seem to be associated with its occurrence, air pollution and excessive cigarette smoking, though other factors at present unknown may also be operative. Active research is proceeding.

In the Cannock Rural District in 1958 there were five deaths 3 male, 2 female, registered as being due to Carcinoma of the Lung or Bronchus. Ages at death were Males 65, 65, 71; female 39, 53 years. In England and Wales in 1958 deaths from Carcinoma of the Lung or Bronchus showed an increase from 759 to 783 per million population in men and from 116 to 119 in women, over the 1957 figures.

CANCER—LUNG, BRONCHUS OR PLEURA ENGLAND AND WALES

Death Rates per Million

YEAR	MALES	FEMALES
1900	10	7
1920	17	10
1940	187	49
1955	693	105
1956	726	111
1957	759	116
1958	783	119

In the Cannock Rural District in 1957 there were 27 deaths (11 male, 16 female) from Malignant Diseases (all forms). This represented 11.4% of the total deaths. The following table shows the mortality from Cancer, all forms, England and Wales.

MORTALITY FROM CANCER—ALL FORMS ENGLAND AND WALES

YEAR	NUMBER OF DEATHS			DEATH RATE per Million Population	
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
1944	35,887	37,610	73,497	2,217	1,741
1954	47,313	42,782	90,095	2,223	1,861
1956	48,932	43,769	92,701	2,274	1,891
1957	50,045	43,962	94,007	2,312	1,891
1958	50,732	45,067	95,799	2,333	1,929

Of the total deaths from Cancer in 1958, Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus was responsible for 19,809 (17,030 males, 2,779 females). Cancer accounted for 18.2% of the total deaths, and Cancer of the Lung and Bronchus accounted for 3.8% of the total deaths in England and Wales in 1958.

POPULATION—ENGLAND AND WALES

YEAR	MALES	FEMALES	TOTALS
1801	4,254,735	4,637,801	8,892,536
1851	8,781,225	9,146,384	17,927,609
1901	15,728,613	16,799,230	32,527,843
1951	21,049,000	22,751,000	43,800,000
1957	21,648,000	23,259,000	44,907,000
1958	21,744,000	23,365,000	45,109,000

POPULATION—ENGLAND AND WALES, AS AT 30th JUNE, 1958, BY SEX AND AGE (Figures in Thousands)

Sex	All Ages	0-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and over
Males ..	21,744	1,735	3,555	2,808	2,985	3,110	3,161	2,318	1,396	676
Females ..	23,365	1,618	3,395	2,814	2,990	3,212	3,284	2,783	2,028	1,211
Totals ..	45,109	3,383	6,950	5,622	5,975	6,322	6,445	5,101	3,424	1,887
% of Totals ..	100 %	7.5	15.4	12.5	13.2	14.0	14.3	11.3	7.6	4.2

The proportion of children and elderly people in the population has become significantly modified since 1901. In that year children under 15 amounted to 32% of the total and persons of 65 years and over to 5%. In 1958 the proportions were respectively 22.9% and 11.8%.

EXPECTATION OF LIFE—ENGLAND AND WALES

On the basis of the death rates for the year 1957, the expectation of life for a boy at birth is given as 68 years and that of a girl as 74 years. This compares with 67 and 72 in 1953, 48.53 and 52.38 in 1901-1910, and with 40 years and 42 years in 1841.

The incidence of Infectious Diseases in the Cannock Rural District in 1958, compared with that of previous years, is shewn below in tabular form:

Disease	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947
Scarlet Fever ..	5	14	9	19	33	32	32	14	19	65	99	58
Whooping Cough ..	6	44	70	20	19	112	30	151	52	80	162	60
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	1	2	2	5
Erysipelas ..	2	1	6	1	1	3	1	3	1	5	8	5
Measles(excluding Rubella) ..	98	394	44	527	4	327	38	313	102	358	179	337
Primary Pneumonia ..	8	21	8	8	22	12	6	19	7	18	12	24
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	29	46	1	—	3	2	—	1	1
Typhoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Para-Typhoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	3	1	1	—	1	—	2	—	2	3

Infectious Diseases notifications, 1958, shewing months of occurrence :

Month	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	Whooping Cough	Primary Pneumonia	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Para-Typhoid Fever	Erysipelas	Paralytic Poliomyelitis	Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis
January ..	—	—	18	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
February ..	—	—	38	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
March ..	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
April ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
May ..	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
June ..	1	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
July ..	—	—	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
August ..	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
September ..	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
October ..	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
November ..	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
December ..	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	5	—	98	6	8	—	—	—	—	2	—	—

Names of Parishes in the Cannock Rural District shewing number of Houses (including farmhouses) approximate population figures and incidence of Infectious Diseases in each Parish in 1958.

NAME OF PARISH	Number of Houses	Census 1951 Popula- tion	Esti- mated Popula- tion Mid- 1958	INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED 1958										
				Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles (including Rubella)	Whooping Cough	Primary Pneumonia	Dysentery	Enteric or Typhoid	Para-Typhoid	Erysipelas	Poliomyelitis	Respiratory Tuberculosis
Acton Trussell and Bednall	144	432	432	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Blymhill	151	500	500	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Brewood	1,300	3,576	4,306	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheslyn Hay	899	3,130	3,140	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Coppenhall	46	113	120	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dunston	91	295	300	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essington	1064	3,069	3,687	—	—	17	2	7	—	—	—	2	—	2
Featherstone	356	1,655	1,850	1	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Great Wyrley	1,419	4,287	4,640	1	—	14	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Hatherton	168	511	561	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hilton	93	383	383	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Huntington	365	1,587	1,680	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lapley	243	780	780	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Penkridge	912	2,518	2,843	1	—	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Saredon	145	428	500	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shareshill	119	301	290	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stretton	49	182	172	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Teddesley Hay	28	136	136	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weston-under-Lizard	82	273	260	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	7,674	24,166	26,470	5	—	98	6	8	—	—	—	2	—	13

AGE AND SEX INCIDENCES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1958

Age Groups	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Measles		Whooping Cough		Primary Pneumonia		Dysentery		Enteric or Typhoid Fever		Para-Typhoid Fever		Erysipelas		Polymyellitis		Respiratory Tuberculosis	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 Year																						
1—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—	—	—	—	—	2	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—	—	—	—	—	3	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4—	—	1	—	—	6	8	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
5—9	—	1	—	—	5	5	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
10—14	2	—	—	—	30	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
15—24	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
25—44	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
45—64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	1
Over 65 Years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	2	—	—	48	50	1	5	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	6	7

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

During 1958 no action under Section 47 of the above Act was taken by the Council.

SCARLET FEVER

Five cases of Scarlet Fever were notified in the Cannock Rural District in 1958, compared with 14 in 1957. No deaths were recorded.

It has been stated that Scarlet Fever is a diminishing hazard to the child life of this country and is now important principally as a cause of interference with the schooling of children. In 1870, 32,543 deaths from Scarlet Fever were recorded in England and Wales, in 1958 there were 4 deaths.

SCARLET FEVER—ENGLAND AND WALES							
Year	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	
Cases	56,730	58,047	74,831	70,667	65,889	48,744	
Deaths	43	42	37	18	33	37	
Case Fatality (%)	0.08	0.07	0.05	0.03	0.05	0.08	
Year	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	
Cases	67,261	61,180	43,026	32,619	33,103	29,547	
Deaths	23	27	27	21	15	10	
Case Fatality (%)	0.03	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	

Most of Scarlet Fever cases are now very mild; the progressive fall in mortality has not been accompanied by a comparable decline in the number of cases.

MEASLES

98 cases of Measles were notified in the Cannock Rural District in 1958, compared with 394 in 1957. No deaths were recorded.

The remarkable feature about Measles is the way in which its severity has declined in recent years. This is all to the good for Measles is one of those infections in which the patient is liable to be highly infectious before the diagnosis of his illness has been established.

Early infectiousness makes the application of preventive measures practically impossible and largely accounts for the extremely rapid spread of the infection throughout the susceptible sections of the child community. Measles, often negligible as a disease, is pre-eminently a "school disease" and, when large outbreaks occur, it is capable of causing a good deal of disorganisation in the children's curricula. Fortunately, absence from school on account of Measles should not exceed 10 days.

MEASLES—ENGLAND AND WALES						
Year	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Cases	160,402	393,287	399,606	385,935	367,725	616,192
Deaths	204	644	327	307	221	317
Case Fatality (%)	0.13	0.16	0.08	0.08	0.06	0.05
Year	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Cases	389,502	545,050	146,995	693,803	160,556	633,678
Deaths	141	245	50	176	30	95
Case Fatality (%)	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.01

WHOOPING COUGH

6 cases of Whooping Cough were notified in the Cannock Rural District in 1958, compared with 44 in 1957. No deaths were recorded.

Immunisation against Whooping Cough

Towards the end of 1953 immunisation against Whooping Cough facilities were made available by the County Council as Local Health Authority. Immunisation involves three injections at monthly intervals between each injection, commencing when the child is 3—4 months old, but available for older children. The complications and sequelae of Whooping Cough can be very serious in childhood, and parents will wish to take full advantage of the protection which immunisation offers against such infection. Immunisations are carried out at the various Infant Welfare Centres and by family doctors.

In the Cannock Rural District during 1958, 206 children were immunised against Whooping Cough and 12 received re-inforcing doses.

WHOOPING COUGH—ENGLAND AND WALES						
Year	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Cases	92,936	92,682	146,410	102,816	157,781	169,441
Deaths	808	905	748	527	394	457
Case Fatality (%)	0.87	0.98	0.51	0.51	0.25	0.27
Year	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Cases	114,869	157,842	105,912	79,133	92,410	85,018
Deaths	184	243	139	88	95	88
Case Fatality (%)	0.16	0.15	0.13	0.11	0.10	0.10

POLIOMYELITIS

No cases of Poliomyelitis were notified in the Cannock Rural District in 1958.

Poliomyelitis Vaccination

During 1956 the Staffordshire County Council as Local Health Authority made arrangements for a start to be made in the vaccination of children against Poliomyelitis. The supply of vaccine was limited and vaccination was restricted to children born in the years 1947 to 1954 inclusive. Primary Vaccination involved two injections with an interval of at least three weeks between the first and second injections. In the Cannock Rural District in 1958, 2,682 persons were vaccinated against Poliomyelitis as compared with 735 the previous year.

POLIOMYELITIS—ENGLAND AND WALES						
Year	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951
Total Cases ..	680	7,776	1,855	5,982	7,760	2,614
Deaths	128	707	241	657	755	217
Year	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Total Cases ..	3,910	4,547	1,960	6,331	3,200	4,844
Deaths	295	338	134	270	137	255

DIPHTHERIA

No cases of Diphtheria were notified in the Cannock Rural District in 1958. The last case was notified in 1952.

DIPHTHERIA—ENGLAND AND WALES						
Year	Annual Average 1916—1925		Annual Average 1933-1942		1950	1951
Notifications	51,573		55,125		962	664
Deaths	4,214		2,783		49	33
Fatality Ratio (%) ..	8.2		5.0		5.1	4.5
Year	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Notifications	376	266	173	155	53	37
Deaths	32	23	9	13	3	6
Fatality Ratio (%) ..	6.1	7.5	4.6	7.7	5.7	10.8

In the Cannock Rural District in 1958 facilities were available for the Diphtheria Immunisation of children at schools, Welfare Centres and by private practitioners. 378 children received primary immunisation and 118 children received re-inforcing or "Boosting" doses.

The fullest publicity is advocated by the Ministry of Health as essential if parents are to be helped to realise that Diphtheria is still a deadly threat and to be persuaded to have their children immunised. The incidence of Diphtheria continues to fall. Records of corrected notifications were first kept in 1944 and in that year, there were 23,199 notifications and 934 deaths.

Scarcely less important than the primary immunisation is the re-inforcing injection known as the "booster dose." The protection conferred by the primary immunisation wanes with the passage of time and, after about five years, it has fallen to such a degree as to be virtually ineffective. Another injection of the immunising substance boosts and restores the protection to its full value, hence the term "booster dose" given to it.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

In the Cannock Rural District in 1958, 217 children under 15 years were vaccinated. A further 22 persons over 15 were also vaccinated.

It is felt that routine infant vaccination, together with re-vaccination on entering and leaving school (at ages 5 and 15) would greatly reduce the vulnerability of the community to the spread of smallpox. Smallpox has become so rare in this country that its high mortality and legacy of dreadful disfigurement are in danger of being forgotten. Vaccination and re-vaccination is the answer to this situation.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table is culled from the Tuberculosis Register, maintained by the Cannock Rural District Council—figures as at 31st December, 1958 (1957 figures in brackets).

CANNOCK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL								
Respiratory Tuberculosis			Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis			Total Respiratory and Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis		
Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
70 (65)	72 (64)	142 (129)	11 (12)	14 (12)	25 (24)	81 (77)	86 (76)	167 (153)

One death from Respiratory Tuberculosis was recorded in the rural district in 1958. Thirteen cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis were notified (6 male, 7 female) during the year.

In England and Wales in 1958, the fall in Tuberculosis deaths continued, the total number of deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis being 4,000. In 1939 deaths from this cause numbered 21,542.

HOUSING, Etc.

Captain Page, Council's Engineer and Surveyor, has kindly let me have the following comments re work in 1958.

“Housing.—The Council completed 69 dwellings, about the average for recent years, but there were 166 under construction at the year end, a far higher total than usual.

Private enterprise housing increased, and the total of 248 houses in the year is by far the highest post-war total.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.—The only significant item under this heading is that, towards the end of the year, a start was made on the contract for the construction of a new disposal works at Brewood.

Water Supply.—No major changes.”

CANNOCK R.D.C.—NEW HOUSES BUILT IN 1958.

Parish	By Council	By Private Enterprise
Acton, Trussell & Bednall	—	—
Brewood	—	115
Cheslyn Hay	—	1
Coppenhall	—	—
Dunston	—	3
Essington	28	33
Featherstone	—	4
Great Wyrley	41	34
Hatherton	—	2
Hilton	—	1
Lapley	—	1
Penkridge	—	40
Saredon	—	3
Shareshill	—	11
TOTALS	69	248

Mr. Bates, the Council's Housing Manager, writes: "During the year 1958, new development was confined to the parishes of Essington and Great Wyrley. Towards the end of the year the start was made on the clearance of the Holly Close Hostel at Great Wyrley, and 13 families were actually re-housed, with the consequent demolition of the same number of hutments. The Middle Hill Camp was from time to time considered, but during the year four further families only were re-housed.

Other applicants re-housed from condemned properties during the year were as follows: Two from Cheslyn Hay, one from Essington, and three from Churchbridge.

It is interesting to note that 23 families were thus re-housed from condemned properties or hutted camps out of 69 new dwellings completed during the year, an average of exactly $33\frac{1}{3}\%$.

The progressive clearance of Holly Close is continuing."

At the commencement of 1958, approximately 965 applicants were registered on the Council's waiting-list. At 31st December, 1958, the waiting-list was as follows:—

Cheslyn Hay	..	..	..	..	188
Essington	..	..	..	..	132
Great Wyrley	..	..	..	..	275
Huntington	..	..	..	..	59
Brewood ..	..	..	..	..	125
Penkridge	..	..	..	..	121
Coven ..	..	..	..	..	111
Featherstone	..	..	..	..	145
Wheaton Aston	..	..	..	..	11
Hatherton	..	..	..	..	20
					1,187

At 31st December, 1958, the following properties were in the care of the Housing Manager :

Council Houses	1,365
(including Purchased Houses)	
Prefabs.	30
Hutments, Walsall Road, Great Wyrley	22
Hutments, Cannock Road, Westcroft ..	20
Hutments, Gravel Lane, Huntington ..	15
Hutments, Primrose Park, Penkridge	29
	1,481
Middle Hill Camp	14
Holly Close Hostel	20
	34

A. THOMSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Summary of Inspections and work done during 1958

Number of Houses inspected for repairs	115
Re-inspections, calls, etc.	511
Slaughter-house Licences renewed	7
Meat and Food Inspections	608
Petrol Licences renewed	95
New Petrol Licences issued	5
Drainage work examined	96
Cases of Infectious Disease investigated	6
New Licences, Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933	1
Renewal Licences, Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933	33
Informal Notices issued (affecting 37 houses)	31
Statutory Notices issued	19
Samples taken of Drinking Water :	
Chemical	24
Bacteriological	30
Moveable Dwelling Licences issued (New)	8
Moveable Dwelling Licences (Renewed)	22
Visits re Moveable Dwellings	29
Visits re Refuse Matters	475
Visits re Disinfestation for Vermin	5
Demolition Orders served	15
Closing Orders served	1
Houses Demolished	13

RODENT CONTROL, 1958

Premises Inspected

				Total Inspected	Found Infested	Found Non-Infested
Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	...	...	...	33	33	—
Business Premises	...	...	...	29	29	—
Agricultural	...	...	...	6	6	—
Local Authority	...	...	...	18	14	4
				<hr/> 86	<hr/> 82	<hr/> 4

Visits to carry out Treatments of Infestations

Dwelling Houses (including Council Houses)	...	...	...	...	...	108
Business Premises	...	...	...	...	...	77
Agricultural	...	...	...	...	...	30
Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	68
						<hr/> 283

PARTICULARS OF NUMBER OF HOUSES SUPPLIED FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE WATER MAINS

				Houses	Houses Supplied Direct
Acton and Bednall	...	...	...	144	103
Blymhill	...	...	...	151	84
Brewood	...	...	...	1,302	1,252
Cheslyn Hay	...	...	...	901	899
Coppenhall	...	...	...	46	44
Dunston	...	...	...	91	36
Essington	...	...	...	1,167	1,037
Featherstone	...	...	...	361	360
Hatherton	...	...	...	170	164
Hilton	...	...	...	93	87
Huntington	...	...	...	366	366
Lapley	...	...	...	243	210
Penkridge	...	...	...	912	833
Saredon	...	...	...	145	135
Shareshill	...	...	...	119	115
Stretton	...	...	...	49	45
Teddesley Hay	...	...	...	28	22
Weston under Lizard	...	...	...	82	77
Great Wyrley	...	...	...	1,441	1,437

ANTHRAX

During the year three suspected cases of Anthrax (none of which were confirmed) were reported, compared with eight suspected cases in the previous year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

The following shows the number and type of factories in the area.

Premises	No. on the Register	No. of Inspections made during 1958
(1) Non-mechanical ..	11	6
(2) Mechanical Factories	52	30
Total	63	36

WATER SUPPLIES

Water supplies to the district during 1958 were from The Staffordshire Water Works Company, The Wolverhampton Corporation, The Stafford Corporation, and the East Shropshire Water Board. The quality of these waters remained satisfactory.

The water from none of the three sources was plumbosolvent.

SOURCE	No. of Samples taken for Bacteriological Examination	No. of Samples taken for Chemical Analysis	RESULTS			
			Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
			Bact.	Chem.	Bact.	Chem.
Wells (Private)	24	18	6	14	18	4
Springs (Private)	1	1	—	—	1	1
Bores (Private)	5	5	2	4	3	1
TOTALS	30	24	8	18	22	6

SPECIAL MILK LICENCES

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

	Pasteurised	Sterilised	Tuberculin Tested
Supplementary Licences	10	10	9
Dealers' Licences	9	11	5

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

The following premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Fried Fish and Chip Shops and Manufacturers of preserved foods	...	...	...	...	17
Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	110

In addition to routine visits made to the above premises, other establishments where food is handled, stored or sold have been visited. These include provision shops, butchers, and cafes, etc.

The number and description of the various types of food premises in the district are set out below :—

Grocers	...	...	60	Confectioners	...	16
Bakers	...	...	2	Butchers	...	20
Cafes, Inns, etc.	...	...	64	Works Canteens	...	10

All foodstuffs condemned in shops during the year are listed below :—

13 tins Corned Beef	16 tins Peas
1 tin Corned Mutton	1 tin Cod Roe
4 tins Minced Beef	2 tins Dog Food
1 tin Luncheon Meat	6 tins Salmon
6 tins Pineapple Chunks	78 tins Peaches
4 tins Pilchards	1 tin Onions
5 tins Apricots	9 tins Vegetables
5 tins Mandarin Oranges	18 tins Milk
1 tin Grapefruit	1 tin Creamed Rice
8 tins Pears	2 tins Stewed Steak
118 tins Tomatoes	10 tins Plums
3 tins Baked Beans	

These items are disposed of by burial or burning under supervision of this department. In case of meat being found unfit for human consumption, it is coloured with an approved dye and generally disposed of for industrial purposes.

The following foodstuffs were damaged during the flooding of Penkridge Village, 2nd July, 1958, and found to be unfit for human consumption. All the goods were returned to the Wholesaler.

14 1lb. Bags of Sugar	24 packets Nibbitts
16 packets of Bisto	60 packets Windsor Wafers
12 packets of Grapenuts	19 packets Savoury Biscuits
8 packets Flaked Rice	16 packets Aladdin Biscuits
18 packets Custard Powder	16 packets Ginger Nuts
36 packets Lentils	72 packets Harlequin Biscuits
16 packets Pudding Sugar	20 packets C.W.S. Cream
14 packets Karswood Spices	Crackers
16 packets Karswood Spices	24 packets Symbol Cream
8 packets Energen Rolls	Crackers
5 packets Energen Rolls	24 packets Crawford's Cream
24 packets Soda Foam	Crackers
12 packets S.R. Flour	16 packets Maryland Cookies
24 packets Plain Flour	12 packets Cadbury's Orange
12 packets Plain Flour	Sandwich
42 packets Sultanas	12 packets Cadbury's
40 packets Currants	Bournville
7 packets Raisins	16 packets Butter Puffs
32 packets Table Rice	18 packets Eleverses
56 1lb. packets Icing Sugar	3lbs. of Cheese Assortment
56 1lb. bags Cube Sugar	5lbs. Custard Creams
8 cwt. 1 qtr. Granulated Sugar	28 packets Cheese-ettes
16 packets Brandy Snaps	26 packets Kemp Shorties
14 packets Custard Creams	2lbs. Windsor Wafers
20 packets Fig Bars	4lbs. Royal Mixture
16 packets Tea Time Biscuits	14 packets Presto Brand
14 packets Arrowroot Biscuits	24 packets Presto Brand
25 packets Choc. Wholemeal Biscuits	

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Inspected	1,348	196	1 627	2,010
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:				
Whole carcases condemned	—	1	3	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	64	—	30	18
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ..	4.75 %	0.51 %	2.02 %	.995 %
Tuberculosis only:				
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	59	—	—	49
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ..	4.38 %	—	—	2.44 %

A FEW THOUGHTS ON PUBLIC HEALTH

During my 25 years as a Sanitary Inspector and now as a Public Health Inspector, I have read many annual reports. Some of these reports have recently given me cause for some reflection. The reflections have sometimes caused a feeling of frustration and despondency. Questions have hurriedly passed through my mind: What is the good of it all? Is the importance of the Health Committee realised? Does the public realise or appreciate the activity of the Health Committee and its department?

Whilst in this somewhat pensive mood, I happened to read the words of a professor of the last century. He said, "Hygiene is a science which aims at rendering growths more perfect, decay less rapid, life more vigorous and death more remote." These words acted as a stimulant and I immediately endeavoured to review the past and see what light it could throw upon the subject of Public Health.

As industry has developed we have been brought together into densely populated areas; thus causing people to live in surroundings which were not conducive to cleanliness. The air above became unwholesome and there was great risk of contamination to our water supply. In short, nature could not combat these evils without being assisted by man.

It soon became clear to me that much had been done and was still being done to correct the defects of our surroundings and bring about the ideals of the science of hygiene.

Largely due to the energy of Mr. Chadwick, one of the pioneers in hygiene, the Health of Towns Commission presented in 1844 its report to the Government and the Public Health Act of 1848 resulted. It is of interest to note that the adoption of this Act was optional, and only few local authorities took advantage of the powers to borrow money for sanitary purposes. Following this, Urban and Rural Authorities were established by the Public Health Act, 1872, culminating in the great Public Health Act of 1875. From that time the health of the nation began to improve, and each subsequent Act has done something to benefit humanity.

It is interesting to note that the mean annual death rate per thousand population prior to the Public Health Act, 1872, was 22.6, after which it gradually lessened until in 1900 the mean annual death rate was 17.6 per thousand population. The death rate for the Rural areas of Staffordshire at the end of the 18th century was 16.2, and 12.8 in 1908, compared with a Staffordshire Rural death rate of 10.6 in 1956.

These findings went to show that after all the work of past sanitarians has shown fruit. Limiting my thoughts to the Cannock Rural area I found that the death rate in 1913 was 10.1 per thousand population, compared with 8.6 for 1957. As for other activities in the realms of Public Health, similar improvements were indicated such as:—

Refuse Collection.—In 1913 household refuse was removed only in the parishes of Bushbury and Cheslyn Hay. By 1922 Great Wyrley, Huntington and Essington were included. It was done by contractors, and it is recorded that at the end of 1922 the contractor for Cheslyn Hay had left his work in a very unsatisfactory state, and that the new contractor had a large amount of back work to do. Compare that with today's collection throughout the whole area by means of modern covered vehicles. Cesspits and pan closets were not attended to, and dustbins were luxuries, for example only 77 houses at Huntington had dustbins in 1922.

Meat Inspection.—In 1913 only 220 inspections were made, compared with 552 in the year under review. These visits involved the inspection of 5,181 meat carcasses. This total is made up of 1,348 cattle, 196 calves, 1,627 sheep and lambs, and 2,010.

Water Supply.—Today every consideration is given to the possibility of taking the mains water supply to very small hamlets, whereas in 1922 the township of Brewood had no proper water supply. At that time the township was supplied by 102 wells, 81 being polluted with sewage or animal matter. My predecessor thought that the results of his tests were rather better than he expected, and attributed this to the dry weather of the previous year.

Drainage.—It appears that drainage in this district has always been a problem, as is shown by a report of some 35 years ago that the drainage from 52 houses at Broad Lane, Essington, was discharged into ditches and on to a field. The field, in fact, could not be used owing to the pools of sewage in it. Today conditions have improved in the urban parts, and new problems are arising in the rural section of our area. Even here huge sums of money are spent annually to combat such drainage problems so as to prevent them from becoming nuisances.

Having made this brief excursion into past history, I was encouraged to look forward more hopefully into the future and was reminded of the words of a late Medical Officer, "It has been proved over and over again, that nothing is so costly in all ways as disease, and that nothing is so remunerative as the outlay that augments health, and in doing so augments the amount and value of the work done." "Let gratitude for the past inspire us with faith in the future."

**Number of visits made to each individual Slaughter-house
during 1958.**

Mr. T. J. Churchill, Forge Farm, Wheaton Aston	...	13
Mr. W. Gibbs, Market Place, Brewood	... ..	37
Mr. J. B. Whitehouse, Blymhill Lawn, Blymhill	... ..	17
Mr. K. Owen, The Larches, Coven	... ..	144
Mr. J. Richards, Wolverhampton Road, Essington	...	42
Mr. D. Whiteway, The Laurels, Wheaton Aston	... ..	3
Mr. H. P. Westwood, 203, Station Street, Cheslyn Hay	...	268
Mr. G. Yates, Trial Pit, Newtown, Essington	... ..	28

G. RICHARDSON,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

V. L. Withington, Printer, Cannock